the manufacturers are free to move surplus cement, if any, to the deficit areas on their own. Any infrastructural constraint in moving such cement is looked into by Government as and when it occurs.

New Contraceptive Vaccine

2141. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a new contraceptive vaccine has been successful in mice in USA as reported in April, 1990 issue of 'Health of Millions' if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) whether these results are based on similar R&D Work carried out earlier at AIIMS and now at National Institute of Immunology and if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether the new US vaccine has any features which makes it more effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD): (a) Yes, Sir. A vaccine has been successful in mice. There is a layer encircling the ovum termed as 'Zona pellucida' that consists of a number of proteins. The antibodies directed against Zona antigens would act by prevention of spermovum interaction and thus provide pre-fertilization and thus provide pre-fertilization block of fertility.

(b) No, Sir. The studies carried out at USA in mice are different and independent from the studies that are being carried out at National Institute of Immunology.

(c) The studies are at Laboratory stage only and need further confirmation. It is difficult to comment at this stage about the effectiveness of the vaccine.

Ban on use of Aspartame Sweetner

2142. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether aspartame sweetner widely marketed in India has been linked with Alzheimers disease as per April 1990 issue of Health for Millions; and

(b) whether Government would investigate the matter and pending final results, ban use of this sweetner in the country at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD): (a) and (b) Government has seen the report published in April 90 issue of Health for Millions alleging mentaillness and other health hazards caused as a result of consumption of Aspartame. As per information made available by Food and Drug Administration, Washigton, USA, the Centre for Disease Control has completed and evaluation of Aspartame. The data generated by the Centre do not provide evidence for existence of various vide spread adverse health consequences attendant to use of Aspartame.

OPD Services in Delhi Hospitals

2143. SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the doctor-patient ratio in the various OPD departments of Government hospitals in Delhi at present;

(b) whether Government have made any study of the situation prevailing in the OPD's in various hospitals in the city; and

(c) if so, what measures have been taken to meet the shortage of doctors and to improve the OPD services?